GUAM

Implementing the Guam Cancer Plan

In Program Year 2 of the 5-year CDC implementation grant, the Guam Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC) Coalition took a strategic approach to implementing the 2007–2012 Guam CCC Plan. The first step in prioritizing objectives for implementation was to coordinate a series of cancer forums held from July 22–25, 2008, which was attended by 55 stakeholders and partners from the cancer network on Guam. Facilitated by the University of Guam's Cooperative Extension Service staff, the forums were conducted using the qualitative Appreciative Inquiry process, allowing participants to explore and share what works best, desires for the future, and

suggested methods to carry out actions grounded in real experience and history, thereby allowing people to replicate and repeat previous success.

Shortly thereafter, a Cancer Summit was coordinated by Guam CCC Program staff, with support from CCC Coalition Chairperson Dr. Annette David and other Coalition members. This event gave community members an opportunity to give input on the priorities identified at the cancer forums. Several months later, the Guam CCC Coalition conducted a retreat for all members. At that time Action Teams were established and action plans developed for all segments of the cancer care continuum, as follows:

- Prevention: An outreach program geared to all new mothers and fathers is being developed. Plans center on training Guam's nurses in Brief Tobacco Intervention, as nurses have been identified as the most appropriate people to conduct training with new parents.
- Screening and Early Detection: Work is being done to establish a baseline of the current colon cancer screening levels, to identify current screening guidelines, and to develop standardized minimum screening guidelines for Guam.
- **Treatment:** Priorities include improving access to cancer care and improving continuing cancer education programs for health care professionals.
- Survivorship and Quality of Life: A Cancer Passport Guide booklet containing information on local financial resources as well as other cancer support and services on Guam is being developed. It will be distributed to all newly diagnosed cancer patients.
- Data and Research: A *Guam Cancer Facts and Figures* booklet has been published featuring 2003–2007 data from the Guam Cancer Registry.

C-Change recognized the success of these efforts, awarding the Guam CCC with the 2009 C-Change Award for Exemplary Implementation by a Pacific Island Jurisdiction.

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